



Arlington Finance Committee

Date: Monday, March 18, 2024.

Time: 7:30pm.

Location: O'Neill Community Room, Public Safety Building, 112 Mystic Street, Arlington, MA.

Minutes

Attendance: Christine Deshler, Carolyn White, Topher Heigham, Jennifer Susse, Michael Ruderman, Jordan Remy, Charles Foskett, David McKenna, Sophie Migliazzo, Grant Gibian, John Griffin, Josh Lobel, Alan Jones, Rebecca Younkin, Darrel Harmer, Allan Tosti, Annie LaCourt and Tara Bradley (Secretary). Visitors: David White (Conservation Commission member), Susan Chapnick (Conservation Commission Co-Chair), Steve Richie (Spy Pond Committee Co-Chair), Brad Barber (Spy Pond Committee Co-Chair), Bill Reed (representing Ellen Reed of Friends of Monotomy Rocks Park), Clarissa Rowe (Community Preservation Act Committee Chair; Scenic Byway), Christine Bongiorno (Deputy Town Manager-Operations), Angela Olszewski (Committee for Tourism and Economic Development, Arlington 250), Nicole Gustas (Committee for Tourism and Economic Development member, remote), Stewart Ikeda (Arlington 250, remote), George Parsons (Community Preservation Act Committee), Paul Fennelly (Arlington 250), Jacob Schiller (Menotomy Minuteman representative to Arlington 250, remote).

1. Article 49 – Appropriation / Water Bodies (Conservation Commission): budget covers four town owned water bodies: Spy Pond, Hills Pond, McClennen Park Detention Ponds (Reeds Brook) and Arlington Reservoir. Water Bodies budget runs spring through fall.
 - a. Reservoir: 2023 volunteer efforts included 11 water chestnut harvesting events. FY24 budget covered two weeks of mechanical harvesting covering approximately half the body. Desire to increase mechanical harvesting to four weeks to cover entire body which should help reduce future seed banks (estimate three or four years for a return on investment). There was discussion about purchase of a mechanical harvester and logistics (approximately \$100-\$125,000). About half of water surface is owned by Lexington. June is prime harvesting time.
 - b. Spy Pond: two treatments planned for 2024. Three treatments planned for 2025. Trying to be more proactive with treatments thus asking \$70k for FY25 vs \$35k from FY24.

- c. Hills Pond: aeration system in pond helps with algal blooms. \$6,000 for FY25 for a vendor to monitor algae and health of pond overall, replacing tubing as needed for aeration.
 - d. McClennen Park: \$5k in budget for no mow area and miscellaneous items. Study to be funded by CPA.
 - e. Mystic River: water quality is generally acceptable. DPW has taken a watershed approach to Mystic River and have installed infiltration trenches (88) in East Arlington to help clean the water.
2. Article 50 – Appropriation / Community Preservation Fund (Community Preservation Act Committee): Rowe provided an overview of the proposed FY25 CPA projects which include Historic Preservation, Open Space & Recreation and Community Housing. Crosby Park Court and Park Renovation project includes work on playground but not sports fields.
 3. Article 46 – Appropriation / Committees and Commission and Article 47 – Appropriation / Town Celebrations and Events (Scenic Byway, Committee on Tourism and Economic Development and Arlington 250 – Semiquincentennial).
 - a. Scenic Byway: Arlington, Lexington, Concord and Minuteman National Park share a joint website project. \$5,000 budget request covers funds for website improvement which needs to be coordinated with Arlington 250.
 - b. Arlington 250: \$25,000 is requested for second year of intermunicipal agreement signed by Town Managers of Arlington, Lexington, Concord and Lincoln which covers consulting for security plan, security staffing and other shared logistics. Committee believes some funding can be sought from State. There will also be fundraising efforts.
 - c. VOTE: motion to accept \$4,275 budget for Committee on Tourism and Economic Development passed unanimously.
 4. 3/11/2024 Minutes: motion to accept minutes passed unanimously.
 5. 3/13/2024 Minute: minutes were tabled.

Summary of Votes

Budget	Total	Status	Date	Votes
Tourism & Economic Development	\$4,275.00	Approved	3/18/2024	16-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 10:01 pm.

By Tara Bradley.

Reference 1: Water Bodies 2023 Report

Reference 2: Water Bodies Accounting Report

Reference 3: Community Preservation Act FY25 Presentation

Reference 4: Scenic Byway Increase Request Email Rowe 20240212

Reference 5: Arlington Commission on Tourism & Economic Development FY25 Budget

Reference 6: Arlington 250 FY25 Budget

Reference 7: Arlington 250 FY25 Budget Request Revised Email Olszewski 20240318

2023 WATER BODIES ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION REPORT

ARLINGTON CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MARCH 2024



Volunteer Water Chestnut Harvesting at the Res (July 8, 2023, photo by Daria Clark)

PUBLIC VERSION - 3/14/24

2023 ANALYSIS

The Arlington Conservation Commission (ACC), through its Water Bodies Working Group (WBWG), continued the assessment of water bodies in the Town of Arlington, which include five lakes and ponds and nine streams. A majority of these are negatively impacted by polluted runoff and stormwater discharges due to the highly urban nature of Arlington and surrounding towns. Most of these water bodies also have excessive aquatic invasive plants that degrade water quality, impede recreational use, and degrade aesthetics. In determining which water bodies could benefit from management measures using Town funding, the WBWG considered the following factors:

1. Water bodies that are in generally good shape, do not need much help, or whose issues are being addressed by other agencies or funding sources, e.g., Upper & Lower Mystic Lakes and Mystic River
2. Water bodies with some issues that could benefit from directed intervention, e.g. Spy Pond, Arlington Reservoir, Hills Pond, McClennen Park Detention Ponds (Reeds Brook)
3. Water bodies that are in poor shape with many issues that would need major efforts and additional funding to improve, e.g. Mill Brook and Alewife Brook.

Though the chemical treatments of several water bodies must continue for the coming year to control aquatic invasives and harmful algal blooms, the WBWG is focused on obtaining the appropriate data to develop comprehensive proactive management plans for Spy Pond, Arlington Reservoir, and Hills Pond. Our goal is to develop management plans where chemical use is only one step in concert with strategies to reduce nutrient inputs to the water bodies, remove and manage the spread of aquatic invasives through non-chemical means, and investigate opportunities to restore native aquatic plant communities.

Also a number of water bodies in Arlington (Spy Pond, Hills Pond, Mill Brook, Alewife Brook and the Mystic Lakes) are considered impaired by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) and are included in the town's Stormwater Management Plan managed by the Arlington Department of Public Works (DPW). The focus of this program is to reduce nutrient loadings that can detrimentally affect water quality. There are a number of ongoing projects to improve the water quality of those resources.

Excessive nutrients are the primary cause of poor water body health. They lead to excessive algal growth, harmful cyanobacterial blooms and reduced oxygen content for aquatic life. The primary nutrient of concern in urban areas is Phosphorous, generally associated with stormwater runoff.

Management Goals

This year the water bodies working group also made a start on identifying management objectives for Arlington's water bodies. We have structured this as public goals and management goals, with specific management actions then created appropriated to each water body. We discuss later in this report the draft goals developed for Spy Pond.

A) Overall Public Goals

1. Open water environment for general enjoyment, boating and fishing
2. Healthy for native aquatic vegetation and organisms including fish and wildlife

B) Management Goals

1. Control of invasive aquatic plants and hazardous algae
2. Control/management of excessive nutrients
3. Minimize use of chemicals harmful to native plants and wildlife

C) Management Actions

1. Regular monitoring of conditions
2. Specific goals to be determined for each water body ...

Based on the 2023 experiences, the WBWG has identified the following priority locations for 2024.

ARLINGTON RESERVOIR

Arlington Reservoir is a Town-owned water body on the Arlington-Lexington border with invasive water chestnut plants that form dense, impenetrable mats at the water's surface, which impair public use and water quality. These plants have been harvested mechanically every summer for many years.

For more cost-effective invasive management at the Arlington Reservoir, a new vendor was contracted to handle the mechanical removal of invasive water chestnuts. The job was accomplished earlier this year by a new contractor New England Aquatics. However funding was not available to clear the entire Reservoir and parts of the northern areas in Lexington were left undone. The water surface was clear where the harvesting had been done.

However as time went on new water chestnut plants started to appear on the surface as they grew up from the seeds on the bottom. Volunteers organized by the Reservoir Committee and the Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA) continued throughout the summer with hand harvesting from canoes. Altogether there were 11 harvesting events with over 200 volunteers who collected over 1000 baskets of plants. These efforts kept most of the southern water area open and usable and cut down on seed production for future growth.

Controlling water chestnuts is a long term process because these are annual plants which grow each year from seeds. However those seeds can remain viable in the sediments for many years. So it's important to remove as much of the new seed producing growth as possible each year. If a complete job is not done then one can keep harvesting new plants indefinitely. It's worth noting here that MyRWA has been harvesting water chestnut plants on the Mystic River for years and have now reached the point where fewer volunteers are required for that effort - which means more people are available now for the Res.

Patrick Herron the Director of MyRWA has this to say about water chestnut harvesting: *"Perhaps typical of invasive plants in general - 1/2 measures are of almost no value. Yes, harvesting 25% of water chestnut feels good and removes a certain amount of nutrients...but ultimately does nothing to reduce the future population. 75% of the remaining population will produce enough seeds to fill the area back up in the following year. If you can clear 100% of the plants for 4 years straight, you can bring your cost to 10% of the original cost and then gradually go lower and lower as you draw down on that seed bank in the sediment that may yield new plants for the next 15 years."*



Volunteers hand harvesting water chestnuts at the Reservoir

Our recommendation is for complete mechanical harvesting of the water chestnuts at the Res, to be supplemented by volunteer efforts. Mechanical harvesting in recent years has only been partial because of limited funding. If a more complete job can be done then we will likely see a reduction in plant growth and lower costs. One possibility to manage the costs of this is for the Town to purchase a harvester and run it themselves to complete the job. It might even be leased to other communities to cover the costs. Some explorations of this option were started last year and should be pursued.

The ACC is reviewing options for Reservoir management and may recommend additional actions beyond mechanical water chestnut harvesting.

The Reservoir, despite invasive plants, continues to be a healthy environment for fish, turtles, muskrats and many birds. It is also a popular birding spot in Arlington with the most observed species.

Recommendations/Priorities for 2024

- Arrange for a timely and complete mechanical harvesting of water chestnuts and continue to support the hand harvesting efforts.
- Consider expanding water chestnut harvesting to the entire water body to improve control of this invasive species.
- Investigate alternatives to hiring a contractor, including the possible town purchase of a mechanical harvester, to allow for more timely aquatic invasive control for this water body as well as others in town that may benefit from this management technique.

HILL'S POND

Water & Wetland was contracted to manage Hill's Pond in the heavily used Menotomy Rocks Park, which suffers from water quality and invasive plant problems. A major contributor to the problems are Phosphorus nutrients from runoff with fertilizers and animal waste. Actions were taken this year to measure and control those nutrients. The maintenance regime was moderately successful through the summer months. Hill's Pond was closed due to a harmful algal bloom (HAB) in July and early August, which was quickly addressed in collaboration with the Health Department. The WBWG will continue to regularly test the pond for harmful algae to help prevent closures due to blooms in 2024.

The Conservation Commission recommends continuing aeration, strictly limiting polluting activities near the pond or in areas that drain into the pond, maintaining a no-mow vegetated buffer strip around the pond four to ten feet wide of grass or natural vegetation, and low-dose chemical treatments with aquatic herbicides to control algae and other detrimental water plants. Monthly site visits with proactive treatments through the summer of 2023 proved successful in reducing invasives.

Recommendations/Priorities for 2024

- Monitor and investigate options for maintaining a healthier water body, including maintenance of four aeration pumps and establishing a no-mow buffer strip around the pond.
- Consider possible measures to reduce Phosphorus nutrient levels.
- Update permitting for next three years of treatment.
- Regularly test for the presence of cyanobacteria.

MILL BROOK

Mill Brook water quality grade moved down from D+ to D in 2022 (EPA/MyRWA Water Quality Report: <https://mysticriver.org/epa-grade/>¹). Mill Brook's poor water quality is basically due to stormwater runoff; however, the possibility of illicit discharges are also being investigated by the Department of Public Works (DPW). Where not channelized, the brook and its adjacent shore provide valuable wildlife habitat and opportunities for nature views.

Recent work in Wellington Park to create more flood storage and improve habitat value in Mill Brook was completed in 2022 and maintenance of this area is being undertaken by DPW. Future projects that will improve Mill Brook's resource area values include a redesign of Cooke's Hollow and Meadowbrook Park and possible bank and channel restoration work between Hurd Field and the Reservoir.

The current 40B project underway at the Mirak-Schwamb Mill site will add public access and more natural vegetated areas along the brook. The additional 40B project permitted in 2023 at 1021-1025 Massachusetts Avenue will create an urban forest within the riverfront area of Mill Brook and enhance the riparian habitat adjacent to the brook at this location.

¹ The water quality grades are based solely on Coliform bacteria counts and do not consider other factors.

CPA funds were used to perform a feasibility study of Cooke's Hollow in 2023 for restoration and public access of this conservation area adjacent to Mill Brook.

A CPA grant was awarded for two feasibility studies and preliminary design concepts for Mill Brook and No Name Brook, which runs alongside the Minuteman Bikeway. The specific location for the CPA project is in the upper reach of the brook near Arlington Reservoir. The principal goal is to identify and design bank stabilization interventions using green infrastructure, which will improve habitat, water quality, and climate resilience.

Recommendations/Priorities for 2024

- Pursue restoration of Mill Brook between the Reservoir and Hurd Field with CPA funds sought for FY2024.
- Continue to support the redesign of Cooke's Hollow, continue support for Mill Brook/No Name Brook CPA project, and pursue funding for redesign of Meadowbrook Park.
- Evaluate ways to minimize stormwater runoff contaminants.

McCLENNEN PARK DETENTION PONDS ON REEDS BROOK

Residents abutting the detention ponds approached the Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) to discuss flooding concerns and the lack of maintenance of the detention ponds. DPCD determined that the preliminary monitoring period, which was meant to establish routine maintenance, was never conducted. The ponds require a new survey to determine how existing conditions differ from the design, and possible work to return to design conditions, to be followed by the established monitoring period. DPCD submitted a CPA application for the survey in 2023. If awarded, the funds will pay for a survey in 2024.

In 2023, the ACC worked with the Park and Recreation Commission and the Department of Public Works to reestablish a vegetated buffer strip around the ponds to control runoff and to improve wildlife habitat. Signage for the no-mow zone will be sought in 2024.

Recommendations/Priorities for 2024

- Establish signage indicating the buffer zone and no-mow area around the detention ponds.
- Investigate sedimentation issues and follow up on DPW maintenance activities.

SPY POND

Spy Pond is a 103 acre kettle hole pond in East Arlington. Its northeastern shore features Spy Pond Park, Boys and Girls Club, and Scannell Field. Spy Pond is a popular destination for walking, birding, picnics, fishing, boating, rowing, and sailing. It is one of Arlington's most heavily used open spaces for recreation. Left untreated, invasive plants impair recreational use.

Spy Pond has invasive plant problems - both in the water and along the shores. The land surrounding the pond is mostly managed landscape. Runoff from this land combined with stormwater outlets and thick sediment beds contribute to nutrient loading and low oxygen levels.

From a water body management perspective there are many issues associated with Spy Pond.

1. Invasive Aquatic Plants

The invasive plants of primary concern are curly-leaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, and brittle naiad. These plants can cover the water surface and impair aquatic activities. Early proactive treatment when the plants are just emerging is best (April-May, June-July for brittle naiad) to kill the plants. In some years this treatment has happened too late and also wiped out the native plants.

2. Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB)

In some years excessive nutrients and other factors can result in harmful algae blooms (HAB) that close the pond to public use. This needs regular monitoring and timely treatment with an algaecide..

3. Excessive nutrients

The pond has excessive nutrients - especially phosphorus from sediments and stormwater runoff that discharges into the pond. Chemical control with alum that binds to the nutrients and settles to the bottom has been used in the past. A wetland area is an alternative approach but there are few locations along the shore for such a feature.

4. Lack of native aquatic plants

The combination of invasive plants and the chemical herbicide treatments have pretty much eliminated any native aquatic plants. We are looking into restocking with native plants from other sources.

5. Protected species along the shore

An endangered plant species Engelmann's Flatsedge grows along the shore of the pond and special precautions and a plant survey have to be conducted before using any herbicide on the aquatic plants. This is an additional requirement and cost for the pond management.

6. Shoreline problems

There are both shoreline erosion problems and invasive plants growing along the shore. The most troublesome plants are Phragmites which unless controlled will expand to cover more of the shoreline. This has been treated in the past but has reappeared and requires further control most likely with a herbicide whose use will need to be carefully monitored..

All of these factors complicate and increase the expense of managing Spy Pond

Recent Activities

The Conservation Commission contracted with SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) and their subcontractor Water & Wetland (W&W)) for management of Spy Pond, including an assessment of the state of its aquatic vegetation. Spy Pond was effectively treated for curly-leaf pondweed in May. The treatment may have removed a new infestation of Eurasian watermilfoil that was found in September 2022. No water chestnut plants were found this year.

Parterre Ecological removed invasives and added native plants along the shoreline of Spy Pond Park. The Parks and Recreation Department used Community Preservation Funding to renovate the playground with updated and handicapped accessible equipment and access by creating: a pervious surface for the handicapped ramp leading to the water's edge near the park entrance, and completing a pond overlook near Linwood Circle at the other end of the park. The DPW did a major cleanup of debris at the Linwood Beach shoreline.



Volunteers planted native bushes for Spy Pond Park Work Days

Extensive volunteer efforts have focused on water body health: The Friends of Spy Pond Park treated and removed invasives and planted new native shrubs and trees in the park shoreline planting beds. Other efforts involved: planting new dogwoods and removing invasives for the path between Rt. 2 and Spy Pond, and distributing 3,400 fertilizer flyers to Arlington households.

Recommendations/Priorities for 2024

- Develop a comprehensive long-term management plan for Spy Pond.
- Closely monitor the pond to ensure timely treatments before problems occur.
- Investigate the introduction of native aquatic plants back into the pond.
- Treat the expanding population of phragmites on Elizabeth Island and other locations.
- Facilitate shoreline stabilization work to ensure water quality of the pond.

ALEWIFE BROOK

This stream runs along the eastern border of Arlington in the DCR Alewife Greenway Reservation. This area includes pedestrian and bicycle paths from the Alewife T station in Cambridge up to the Mystic River in Medford. The greenway also includes many native plants and provides a wildlife habitat, but also has many invasive plants as well. The water quality of Alewife Brook in 2022 remained at a D grade (<https://mysticriver.org/epa-grade/>).

Much of Alewife Brook's poor water quality is due to stormwater runoff, but the area also hosts Combined Sewer Outfalls (CSO) which release untreated sewage into the brook from Cambridge and Somerville in moderate to large storm events. Other contributing factors are contamination from the upstream Little River and the collected sediments in the brook itself. That creates further problems during flood events when sewage contaminated water can overtop the brook and flow onto adjacent properties in the floodplain. Approximately 5,000 people live in the 100 year floodplain. This is a problem which requires a regional solution involving the adjacent towns and the state. A local activist group Save the Alewife Brook (StAB) was formed in 2021 to address these issues (<https://savethealewifebrook.org/>). The Arlington Select Board has been active in pushing for solutions.

In 2023 which was a fairly rainy year, there were over a dozen CSO sewage discharges into Alewife Brook. There were also three occasions when these discharges coincided with flooding of the Alewife Greenway path. With the support of local state representatives \$100,000 has been allocated in the state budget to assess sediments in the Alewife Brook and what might be done about them. This grant is being managed by the Mystic River Watershed Association.

The parties responsible for the CSOs along the Alewife Brook are the Cities of Cambridge and Somerville, and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA). (Arlington has a totally separated sewer system and thus no CSOs.) These parties are involved in a regulatory process with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) to develop a new Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) for Alewife Brook. It is expected that this will result in water quality improvements and hopefully the closure or treatment of the remaining CSOs. There have been a number of public meetings regarding the development of the new long-term control plan. The public is encouraged to participate in this process. Information can be found at the MWRA <https://www.mwra.com/03sewer/html/sewco.htm>, Cambridge <https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/publicworks/cityprojects/2022/updatedcombinedseweroverflowcscontrolplan> and Somerville <https://www.somervillema.gov/cso> websites.



Joggers, walkers and strollers go through sewage contaminated water on the Alewife Brook Greenway, Aug 11, 2024. Photo by David Stoff of Save the Alewife Brook.

Recommendations/Priorities for 2024

- Implement green stormwater structures in East Arlington with the assistance of a \$40,000 earmark grant from DCR. (See also the Mystic River section below.)
- Work with DPW in implementing measures to improve stormwater runoff.
- Support efforts for a new CSO Long Term Control plan that eliminates untreated CSO discharges into the brook.

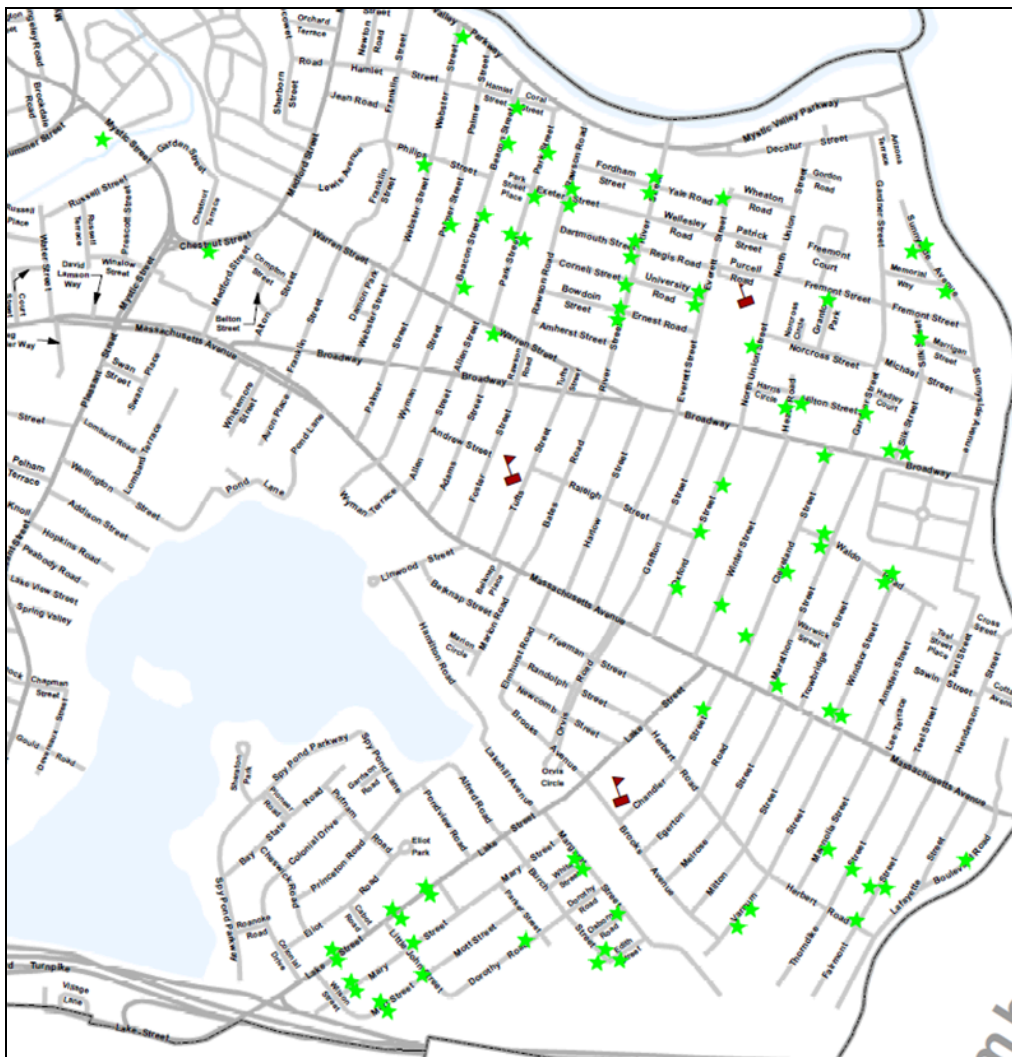
MYSTIC RIVER

On-the-ground improvements to the Mystic River water quality are led primarily by [Mystic River Watershed Association](#) and other volunteer groups. The EPA water quality grading of “B” for the Mystic River in 2022 was a slight decrease from “B+” in prior years (<https://www.epa.gov/mysticriver/mystic-river-watershed-report-cards>). The grades are calculated based solely on the percentage of days that bacteria levels at each of the sampling sites meet Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) water quality standards for swimming and boating. The “B” grade means that the Mystic River was in compliance with DEP standards 75-80% of the time.

Monitoring of the completed Mystic Riverfront Restoration Project continued in 2023 with invasive plants control along the river managed by Arlington DPW, based on The Memorandum of Agreement between DCR and the Town (2021) allowing that this restored riparian habitat and swale can be maintained into the future. The restoration withstood extreme rainfall events in 2023 and worked as designed to provide additional flood storage capacity and improved water quality by infiltration of stormwater through the swale, coupled with improvements implemented by Arlington DPW upstream of the outfall to increase capacity to capture and infiltrate stormwater.

Over the years, Arlington’s DPW has taken a watershed approach to improve contributing stormwater quality by installing green infrastructure, such as rain gardens and infiltration trenches. Rain gardens and infiltration trenches have been constructed in East Arlington to filter pollutants out of stormwater before its discharge to the Mystic River and Alewife Brook.

This work is managed by the DPW and has in past years been funded through Section 604b Water Quality Management Grants and Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), as well as Coastal Pollutant Remediation Grants from the Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM). Since 2018, the DPW has installed eighty-eight (88) infiltration trenches which are shown in the graphic below. To date, all trenches have been installed in East Arlington due to the optimal soil conditions present in that section of Town. These efforts lead the Town of Arlington to be recognized in May 2023 as the winner of the “2022 New England Stormy Award” by the New England Stormwater Collaborative.



Locations of infiltration trenches installed by DPW from 2018 to 2023

The DPW planned to complete additional infiltration trench installations in 2023 via MassDEP's 319 program but the release of funding was ultimately delayed. The DPW now projects that approximately thirty (30) additional trenches will instead be installed in 2024 barring any unforeseen circumstances. These additions will reduce the amount of pollutants entering Alewife Brook and the Mystic River and help the Town maintain compliance with the MS4 General Permit ("stormwater permit") issued to the Town by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Recommendations/Priorities for 2024

- Continue to support DPW in implementing measures to improve stormwater runoff, which has a significant impact on water quality in these locations.

CONCLUSIONS

The Water Bodies Working Group has collected information for all the water bodies evaluated in support of this report. All water body recommendations for actions and funding will be reviewed on an annual basis.

It has been challenging to manage our town water bodies in times of extreme weather and we have increasingly been faced with harmful algal blooms (Spy Pond, Hills Pond, Reservoir), flooding (Mill Brook, Alewife Brook), and the impact of CSOs (Alewife Brook). The WBWG is focused on continued monitoring and improvement of aquatic management to minimize these negative effects and improve these water bodies for the enjoyment of the community and the health of the environment.

We would like to thank everyone who has been involved in caring for Arlington's water bodies including the Spy Pond Committee, Friends of Spy Pond, Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park, the Reservoir Committee, the Department of Public Works, the Park and Recreation Commission, the Mystic River Watershed Association, and many others.

NEXT STEPS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The individual actions and priorities are described above in the sections for each water body.

FUNDING

This work is made possible by the Water Bodies Fund which is supported by the Town. Detailed financial information is found in the budget which is submitted to the Finance Committee and the Town Meeting each year.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Water Bodies Working Group of the Arlington Conservation Commission:

Brad Barber, Spy Pond Committee

David Kaplan, Conservation Commissioner

Ellen Reed, Friends of Menotomy Rocks Park

Natasha Waden, Health Department

Carolyn White, Finance Committee

David White, Conservation Commissioner and Reservoir Committee

David Morgan, Conservation Agent

The WBWG thanks David Morgan, Conservation Agent, for his assistance in preparing this report and also thanks for contributions from Brad Barber, Ellen Reed, and Susan Chapnick.

We also thank the Department of Public Works both for contributions to this report and their efforts in protecting Arlington's water resources.

Addendum - Spy Pond Management Goals

Below are listed the various Goals as received from the Arlington Conservation Commission (ACC) and a listing of activities conducted by the Spy Pond Committee (SPC) in furtherance of the goals. Most of the Spy Pond Committee activities can be carried on independently (e.g. fertilizer flyer distribution, plantings along Route 2 bank) but others require coordination or at least communication with the Conservation Commission. The latter are marked with an asterisk below.

Received From the Conservation Commission:

A) Overall Public Goals

1. Open water environment for general enjoyment, boating and fishing
2. Healthy for fish and wildlife

B) Management Goals

1. Control of invasive aquatic plants and hazardous algae
2. Control/management of excessive nutrients
3. Minimize use of chemicals harmful to native plants and wildlife

C) Management Actions (for Spy Pond)

1. Regular monitoring of conditions.
2. Maintain target water level at 40-42 cm (to be reviewed).
3. Enhance aquatic native plant populations, investigate re-vegetation with native species.
4. Control detrimental invasive plants with chemical or mechanical means
5. Minimal use of chemicals so as not to affect fish, wildlife and native plants.
6. Edge runoff and vegetation control

Spy Pond Committee Actions and activities

1. * Promote best solutions for managing water quality, invasive plants, wildlife, and recreational opportunities by evaluating timing and effectiveness of past treatment programs. Recommend early, proactive treatment.
2. Stay updated on waterbody management trends through local and national organizations and regular monthly meetings).
3. Work with Mystic River Watershed Association on pond and watershed issues.
4. * Eradicate invasive weeds (removed 12 water chestnut plants in 2022, found none in 2023. Major effort on phragmites in 2009, recently mapped current phragmites concentrations, also tackling bittersweet and false indigo). Early treatment of Eurasian Milfoil spring of 2023.
5. * Help control excessive algae by means of summertime monitoring.
6. Control erosion of the west shore with plantings (e.g. planted 50 dogwoods during 2022-2023 Trails Days), previously constructed 9 flights of stone steps for fishermen. Brush in erosion sites, cleanup shoreline and banks each Trails Day
7. Enhance water quality by distributing 10,000 flyers throughout to Arlington households in 2022, 2023 and 2024 promoting fertilizers without phosphorus.
8. * Inspect, and occasionally service, outflow structure to ensure steady state water level.
9. Actively assist animal control to maintain a steady waterfowl population. Have assisted wildlife in distress (often entangled in fishing line).
10. Assist abutters with shoreline restoration by promoting best practices. Assisting in NOI preparation where required. MassDOT dredged the sandbar in 2022.
11. Network with Spy Pond stakeholders — Arlington Conservation Commission, Friends of Spy Pond Park, Mystic River Watershed Association, Arlington DPW, Mass. Department of Transportation, and Arlington Land Trust.
12. Present educational talks on pond history and ecology.
13. Research and record dimensions of pond's health with Tufts University.
14. Lobbied Mass Highway for many years (beginning 2002), met with exploratory site engineers to help develop program to remediate the sandbar caused by runoff from Route 2.
15. Represent Spy Pond at Town Day, Ecofest, and other events.
16. Monthly meetings on the first Tuesday at 7:30pm, Town Hall Annex. Small regular group but trying to recruit more.

	A	B	J	K	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
1	Water Bodies Working Group Account History											
2	Version Date: 03.05.24				<i>Net Available Fund Balance</i>						47,047.66	
3												
4												
5			FY18	FY19	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY23	FY24	FY24	FY25	
6	MUNIS		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	
7	0117553-524015	Revenue/Appropriation	0.00	60,000.00	0.00	50,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	120,000.00	
8	32315-578044	Revenue/Donations	1,450.00	4,376.24	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	2,300.00		3,800.00		
9		Annual Budget	4.34	10,653.45	67,771.14	16,290.00		36,975.00				
10		Carry forward - Revolving Funds	64,105.85	77,205.19	25,324.68	60,019.24	93,095.82	77,313.61	64,687.16	64,687.16	47,047.66	
11												
12	32315-578044	Beginning Balance - 7/1	65,560.19	152,234.88	94,895.82	128,109.24	109,895.82	131,588.61	114,687.16	118,487.16	167,047.66	
13												
15												
16	32315-578044	Expenses - Spy Pond	10,155.00	19,075.00	(34,076.31)	(12,875.00)	(35,000.00)	(38,303.15)	(35,000.00)	(21,290.28)	(70,000.00)	Proactive monitoring and treatment
17	32315-578044	Expenses - Reservoir	15,000.00	15,000.00	(24,840.00)	0.00	(25,000.00)	(26,000.00)	(26,000.00)	(26,000.00)	(55,000.00)	Full WC harvesting
18	32315-578044	Expenses - Hills	3,017.00	3,511.90	(4,670.27)	(945.63)	(5,000.00)	(2,563.30)	(5,000.00)	(5,090.00)	(6,000.00)	FoMRP request
19	32315-578044	Expenses - McClennen	4,529.55	12,580.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(5,000.00)	0.00	(5,000.00)	Pond buffer zone etc.
20	32315-578044	Expenses - CC Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(5,000.00)	(35.00)	(5,000.00)	0.00	(5,000.00)	Contingency
21		Encumbrances								(19,059.22)		
22												
23		Total Expenses	32,701.55	50,167.35	(63,586.58)	(13,820.63)	(70,000.00)	(66,901.45)	(76,000.00)	(71,439.50)	(141,000.00)	
24												
25		Ending Balance - 6/30	32,858.64	102,067.53	31,309.24	114,288.61	39,895.82	64,687.16	38,687.16	47,047.66	26,047.66	
26												
28												
29		Net Available Fund Balance				114,288.61	39,895.82	64,687.16	38,687.16	47,047.66	26,047.66	

ORG	OBJECT	EFF DATE	PO/REF2	AMOUNT	VDR NAME/ITEM DESC	COMMENTS
32315	578044	02/01/2024	241938	2,007.50	SWCA INC	Inv 186502 - Contract 22-21 Yr
32315	578044	12/21/2023	243080	982.00	PARTERRE GARDEN SERVICES INC	Inv 243080 - Spy Pond Invasive
32315	578044	11/02/2023	242339	1,327.00	PARTERRE GARDEN SERVICES INC	Inv 16875 - Spy Pond invasive
32315	578044	11/02/2023	242339	1,846.00	PARTERRE GARDEN SERVICES INC	Inv 17239 - Spy Pond invasive
32315	578044	11/02/2023	242339	2,424.50	PARTERRE GARDEN SERVICES INC	Inv 17609 - Spy Pond invasive
32315	578044	11/02/2023	241938	3,991.50	SWCA INC	Inv 178088 - Spy Pond Mgmt con
32315	578044	10/12/2023	241938	1,172.00	SWCA INC	Spy Pond Mgmt & Monitoring Yr
32315	578044	10/12/2023	241377	2,545.00	WATER & WETLAND LLC	2023 Hill's Pond Maintenance P
32315	578044	09/14/2023	241377	2,545.00	WATER & WETLAND LLC	2023 Hill's Pond Maintenance P
32315	578044	07/27/2023	240405	26,000.00	NEW ENGLAND AQUATIC SERVICES LLC	Reservoir - invasives removal
32315	578044	07/20/2023	240312	7,539.78	SWCA INC	Spy Pond Management - Inv 1700

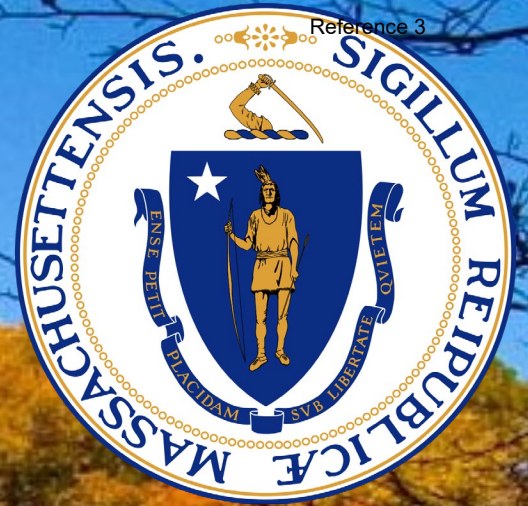
Do not sort or reorder cells in this sheet.

ORG	OBJECT	EFF DATE	PO/REF2	AMOUNT	VDR NAME/ITEM DESC	COMMENTS
32315	578044	06/22/2023	230669	36.30	WATER & WETLAND LLC	2022 Hills Pond Maintenance -
32315	578044	06/22/2023	236129	2,563.30	WATER & WETLAND LLC	2022 Hills Pond Maintenance -
32315	578044	12/29/2022	226407	4,024.50	SWCA INC	158708
32315	578044	11/23/2022	232934	35.00	DATAPRINT	Invoice 151662
32315	578044	11/03/2022	226407	9,712.59	SWCA INC	Invoice 154408 Project 0006857
32315	578044	10/20/2022	230664	2,730.00	PARTERRE GARDEN SERVICES INC	Spy Pond Invoice 13852
32315	578044	09/29/2022		-162.00		REIMB FOR DATA PRINT INVOICE
32315	578044	09/29/2022	226407	3,865.25	SWCA INC	Invoice 153187
32315	578044	09/22/2022	230661	26,000.00	SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT LLC	PSI-05160 Water Chestnut Harve
32315	578044	09/15/2022	230664	2,800.00	PARTERRE GARDEN SERVICES INC	Invoice 13098
32315	578044	09/15/2022	230664	1,425.00	PARTERRE GARDEN SERVICES INC	Invoice 13318
32315	578044	09/15/2022	230669	250.00	WATER & WETLAND LLC	Invoice 514
32315	578044	09/01/2022	231111	162.00	DATAPRINT	151339
32315	578044	08/18/2022	226407	9,865.81	SWCA INC	Invoice 150475
32315	578044	08/11/2022	230669	1,280.40	WATER & WETLAND LLC	000351
32315	578044	08/11/2022	230669	2,313.30	WATER & WETLAND LLC	000352

Do not sort or reorder cells in this sheet.

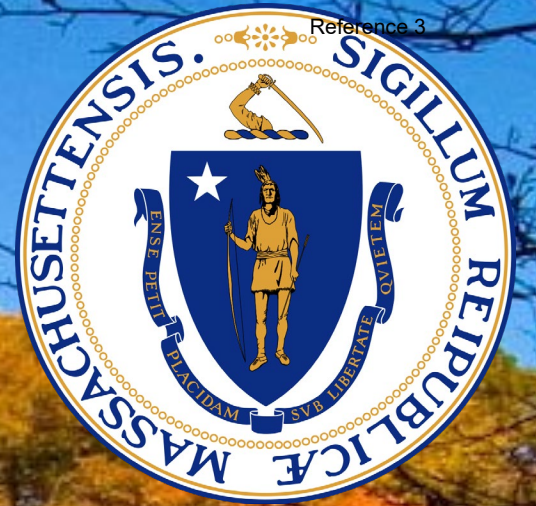
ORG	OBJECT	EFF DATE	PO/REF2	AMOUNT	VDR NAME/ITEM DESC	COMMENTS
230	5299	07/01/2021	215527	1,890.00		ENCUMBRANCE Hills
230	5299	07/01/2021	216012	14,400.00		ENCUMBRANCE Spy Pond
230	5299	08/26/2021	215527	-630.00	SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT LLC	Invoice PI-A00633513 Hill'2021
230	5299	08/26/2021	215527	-630.00	SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT LLC	PI-A00646510 2021
230	5299	11/24/2021	222965	7,950.00	SWCA INC	ENCUMBRANCE Spy Pond SWCA
230	5299	12/02/2021	222965	-3,268.00	SWCA INC	Spy Pond Project #000685732022
230	5299	12/30/2021	222965	-3,832.00	SWCA INC	Spy Pond Management Assess2022
230	5299	12/30/2021	222965	-850.00	SWCA INC	Spy Pond Management Assess2022
230	5299	02/02/2022	214068	944.37	SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT LLC	Hills Pond Maintenance 2021
230	5299	02/22/2022	215527	-630.00	SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT LLC	Invoice PI-A00670772 Hills2021
230	5299	4/14/2022	216012	-750		PI-A00679386 Spy Pond
230	5299	4/14/2022	216012	-1,500		PI-A00731954 Spy Pond
230	5299	4/14/2022	216012	-500		PI-A00679385 Spy Pond
230	5299	6/30/2022	216012	-2,175		PI-A00680871 Spy Pond Adjusted
						9/30/2021 invoice rec
				-13,820.63		

ORG	OBJ	EFF DATE	REF2	JOURNAL AMOUNT	COMMENT
230	5299	07/23/20	205634	-10,208.00	Invoice PI-A00427532 Spy Pond Treatment
230	5299	07/23/20	205632	-3,300.00	Invoice PI-A00441295 Reservoir Aquatic Plant Survey
230	5299	09/03/20	211243	-917.95	Invoice PI-A00440233 Hills Pond Management Services
230	5299	09/03/20	205634	-7,775.00	Invoice PI-A00446132 Spy Pond Treatment
230	5299	09/10/20	205634	-1,500.00	Invoice PI-A00462672 Spy Pond Treatment
230	5299	09/24/20	205633	-19,500.00	Invoice PI-A00449702 Arlington Reservoir Water Ches
230	5299	09/24/20	205634	-900.00	Invoice PI-A00474055 Spy Pond Treatment
230	5299	11/12/20	212512	-917.95	Invoice PL-A0048688 Hills Pond
230	5299	11/19/20	205632	-2,040.00	Invoice PI-A00498177 Reservoir Aquatic Plant Survey
230	5299	01/21/21	205634	-1,500.00	Invoice PI-A00528186 Spy Pond Treatment
230	5299	03/11/21	214068	-944.37	Invoice PI-A00546760 Hills Pond Maintenance
230	5299	06/03/21	215527	-630.00	Invoice PI-A00574185 Hills Pond Treatment
230	5299	06/10/21	215655	-3,000.00	Invoice PI-A00603613 Spy Pond Permitting (NOI) Contract
230	5299	06/10/21	215527	-630.00	Invoice PI-A00594084 Hills Pond Treatment
230	5299	06/17/21	215655	-300.00	Invoice PI-A00605529 Spy Pond Permitting (NOI) Contract
230	5299	06/17/21	215527	-630.00	Invoice PI-A00612492 Hills Pond Treatment
230	5299	06/30/21	216012	-4,850.00	Invoice PI-A00608080 Spy Pond Treatment
230	5299	06/30/21	216012	-750.00	Invoice PI-A00608085 Spy Pond Treatment
230	5299	06/30/21	215655	-450.00	Invoice PI-A00618584 Spy Pond Permitting (NOI) Contract
230	5299	06/30/21	216011	-2,843.31	Invoice PI-A00618584 Spy Pond Permitting Direct Expenses



Community Preservation Act Committee

Clarissa Rowe, chair
Sue Doctrow, David Swanson
vice chairs
Alexander Franzosa,
presentation preparation



Fiscal Year 2025

Community Preservation Act (CPA)

Reference 3



**Historic
Preservation**



**Open Space &
Recreation**

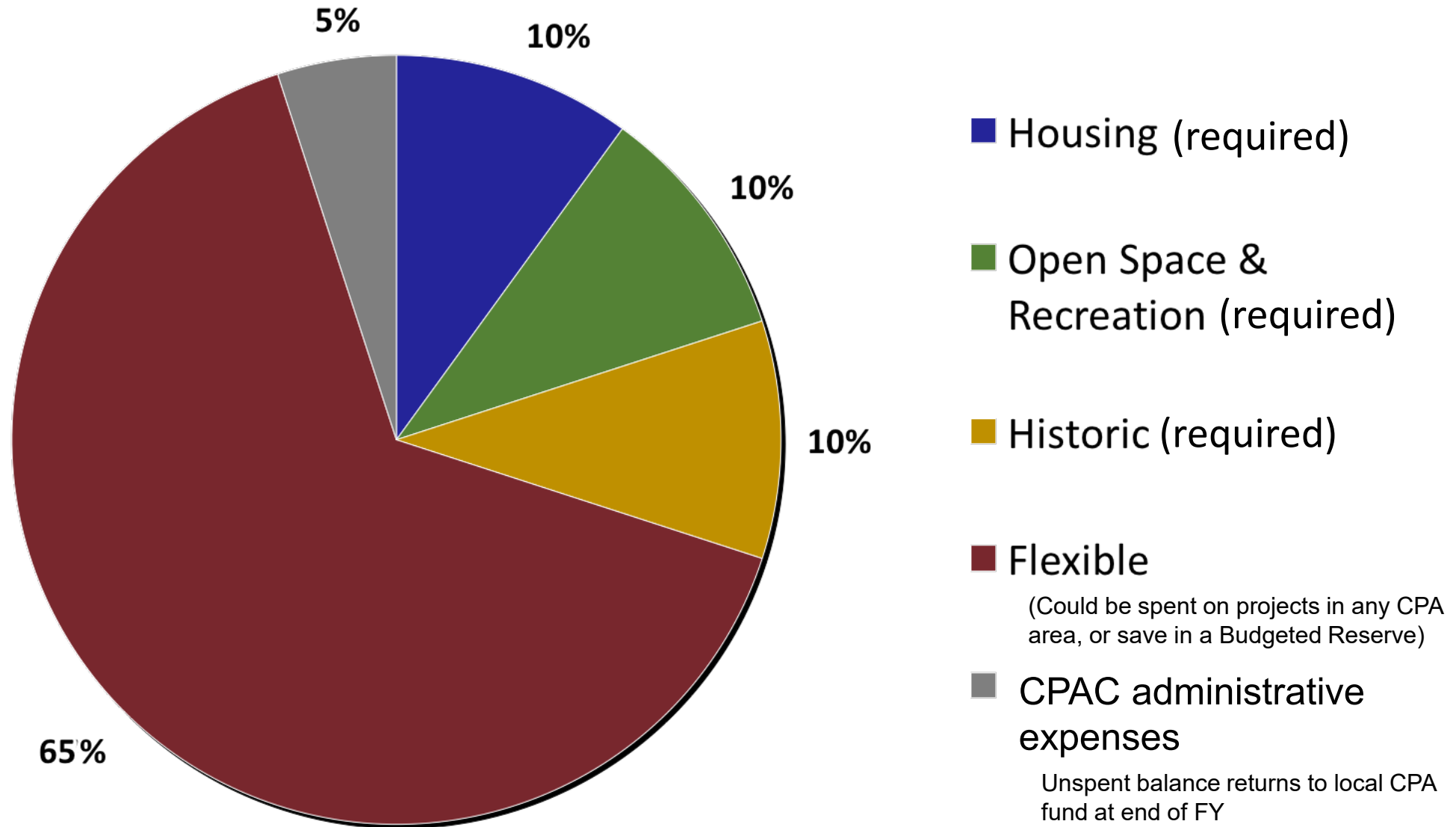


**Community
Housing**



Annual CPA Spending Targets

Reference 3





Ch. 689-2 Special Needs Home Creation

Arlington Housing Authority

\$200,000



10 SUNNYSIDE

Housing Corporation of Arlington

\$500,000



HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION PROGRAM

Housing Corporation of Arlington

\$50,000



LEASING DIFFERENTIAL PROGRAM

Somerville Homeless Coalition

\$16,800



SHEA HOUSE ROOF REPAIR: WELLINGTON STREET

\$30,000

Salvation Army, Cambridge Corps



DIGITIZING AND PRESERVING ARLINGTON'S MARRIAGE RECORDS

Arlington Town Clerk

\$77,597



WINFIELD ROBBINS MEMORIAL GARDEN RESTORATION PLANTING

Friends of the Robbins Garden

\$115,506



Reference 3

FOOT OF THE ROCKS BATTLEFIELD MEMORIAL

Foot of the Rocks Project Working Group

\$450,000



MCCLENNEN DETENTION POND SURVEY

Department of Planning and Community Development

\$40,000



PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ADDENDUM

Department of Planning and Community Development

\$25,000



MINUTEMAN BIKEWAY REDESIGN: RYDER STREET AND ED BURNS ARENA

Department of Planning and Community Development

\$50,000



Reference 3

CROSBY PARK COURT AND PARK RENOVATION

\$150,000

Arlington Parks and Recreation



MENOTOMY ROCKS PARK PLAY AND PICNIC AREA

\$400,000

Arlington Parks and Recreation

FY 25 Community Preservation Act, Final Applications		
Project Title	Applicants	Application
Community Housing		
Ch. 689-2 Special Needs Home Creation	Arlington Housing Authority	\$ 200,000
10 Sunnyside	Housing Corporation of Arlington	\$ 500,000
Homelessness Prevention Program	Housing Corporation of Arlington	\$ 50,000
Leasing Differential	Someville Homeless Colation	\$ 16,800
Shea House Roof Repair	Salvation Army (Cambridge Corps)	\$ 30,000
Community Housing Subtotal		\$ 796,800
Open Space/Recreation		
McClennen Detention Pond Survey	Department of Planning & Community Development	\$ 40,000
Public Land Management Addendum	Department of Planning & Community Development	\$ 25,000
Minuteman Bikeway Redesign at Ryder Street and Ed Burns Arena	Department of Planning & Community Development	\$ 50,000
Crosby Park Court and Park Renovation	Arlington Parks and Recreation	\$ 150,000
Menotomy Rocks Park Play and Picnic Area	Arlington Parks and Recreation	\$ 400,000
Open Space/Recreation Subtotal		\$ 665,000
Historic Preservation		
Digitizing and Preserving Arlington's Marriage Records	Arlington Town Clerk	\$ 77,597
Winfield Robbins Memorial Garden Restoration Planting	Friends of the Robbins Garden	\$ 115,506
Foot of the Rocks Battlefield Memorial	Working Group: Foot of the Rocks Project	\$ 450,000
Historic Preservation Subtotal		\$ 643,103
Subtotal, FY25 CPA Applications		\$ 2,104,903
	CPAC Administrative Expenses Account	\$ 74,181
Grand Total		\$ 2,179,084

Estimated CPA Funds for FY25 Appropriation		
Total Town CPA Tax Revenue Estimate for FY25	\$ 1,926,780	
State Match Estimated for FY 25	\$ 192,678	State Match, 10% of anticipated 2025 CPA Collections
Anticipated End of FY24 CPA Fund Balance	\$ 400,000	
Total CPA Estimate Available for Distribution	\$ 2,519,458	

From: clarissa.rowe@comcast.net <clarissa.rowe@comcast.net>
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2024 11:30 AM
To: Tara Bradley <tbradley@town.arlington.ma.us>; Claire Ricker <cricker@town.arlington.ma.us>;
paul@fennellys.com <paul@fennellys.com>; Katie Luczai <kluczai@town.arlington.ma.us>
Cc: 'George Parsons' <GHParsons@msn.com>
Subject: RE: Scenic Byway Budget FY25

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Tara: Our committee has met and we would like to have \$5,000 to start updating our website to get ready for the 250th anniversary in 2025. Clarissa

From: Tara Bradley <tbradley@town.arlington.ma.us>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 5:22 PM
To: Claire Ricker <cricker@town.arlington.ma.us>; Clarissa Rowe home <clarissa.rowe@comcast.net>;
paul@fennellys.com; Katie Luczai <kluczai@town.arlington.ma.us>
Subject: Scenic Byway Budget FY25

Hello,

The **Finance Committee** is reaching out to the **Scenic Byway** regarding its *FY25 budget*.

The Town Manager Budget lists the **Scenic Byway** budget as *\$2,000* in *FY25*.

If you would like to request an increase to this budget, please notify the Finance Committee by Thursday, February 15th at 4:00 PM.

A request for an increase in budget will require that you **notify the Finance Committee by 2/15 and schedule** a hearing at an upcoming Finance Committee meeting. The Finance Committee meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:30-10:00pm at the O'Neill Community Room at the Police Station and we must confirm the date you are attending in advance.

If we do not hear from you with a request for an increase by the deadline, the committee will vote to level-fund your budget.

<image001.png>

If you have questions about previous spending from your budget, please contact a member of the Town Finance Department.

Thank you in advance!

Sincerely,
Tara

Tara Bradley

Executive Secretary to the Arlington Finance Committee

Email: tbradley@town.arlington.ma.us

Cell: 802-673-2782

Item	Amount	Comments
Portapottie rental at Visitor Center	\$ 1,325.00	Provide a public restroom adjacent to bikepath for high traffic months
Visitor Center supplies and activities	\$ 250.00	Office and cleaning supplies, support for onsite activities
Pats weekend - Greet Lancers (Dawes/Revere) event	\$ 700.00	Town Hall rental, craft supplies, refreshments, we also have private food sponsors
Pats weekend - reenactor lunch	\$ 1,500.00	Contribution toward reenactment
Support of business group events/activities	<u>\$ 500.00</u>	E.g, Heights Spring Festival, Chamber First Lights & concert series
	\$ 4,275.00	

Item	Amount	Comments
Intermunicipal Agreement, year 2	\$ 25,000.00	The Battle Road communities (Arlington, Lexington, Lincoln, and Concord) are working collaboratively on the 250 celebration. They jointly entered into a two-year agreement to contract with a consultant to provide marketing, PR, and event management services. The IMA was approved by the Select Board and signed by all four town managers
Support for community events	\$ 10,000.00	Arlington 250 is a multi-year celebration. The committee will organize its own events and support community partners who need help with funding events that will be promoted as part of the 250 celebration. Costs can include speaker honoraria, venue rental, matching funds for grants, etc.
Contribution toward Patriots Day Celebration 2025	\$ 10,000.00	This will be a fraction of the estimated cost for 2025. The committee will seek state funds and private sponsorships.
Local marketing and promotion	\$ 5,000.00	Printing, signage, website support for linkage to MOTT, merchandise
	<u>\$ 50,000.00</u>	

Revised Arlington 250 budget request

Reference 7

Angela Olszewski <amolszewski@gmail.com>

Mon 3/18/2024 2:36 PM

To: Tara Bradley <tbradley@town.arlington.ma.us>

Cc: Jim Feeney <jfeeney@town.arlington.ma.us>; Christine Bongiorno <CBongiorno@town.arlington.ma.us>; Katie Luczai <kluczai@town.arlington.ma.us>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Tara,

I respectfully request to revise the Arlington 250 budget request. Please reduce the request from \$50,000 to \$25,000. The \$25,000 will be used to cover year 2 of the intermunicipal agreement.

Thanks,
Angela